



GRASSHOPPERS MINIS Rugby



Minis Newsletter September 2018

Minis Tour - Friday 3rd until Monday 6th May 2019



Already Minis parents have been asking about this season's Minis end-of-season tour. We are very pleased to announce that we are ready to make a final decision for this year's destination and communicate details during training sessions next week (30 September). **The tour information meetings will take place as follows: U7s, U8s and U9s 09:30 (clubhouse members lounge) and U10s, U11s and U12s 10:30 (clubhouse members' lounge).**



At present Laura Curtin (Tour Manager) is finalising details about our proposed tour and will present these to all interested parties next week. Although it seems really early in the year, rugby clubs must book early to secure a place at the best rugby tournaments and also allow time for all participants to engage in the required number of events to prepare for a successful tour.

For those who weren't on tour last year here is a summary of the tour preparation schedule.

October – Make decision about your inclusion in 2019 tour. If going - **Pay £35 deposit per participant to guarantee place.** The tour cost is around £140 per participant (which includes basic accommodation). Last year we fundraised for the majority of participants (which is not what clubs normally do). On reflection, it was a lot of work for a small number of people but this year we will resort to what all other rugby clubs do – participants pay tour costs in 3 installments: initial deposit, 2nd installment in December and remaining balance in February (by tour organisers balance deadline).

November – Commence social and fundraising activities for all Minis to participate in and enjoy.

December – Committee consider options for tour kit and associated fundraising / sponsorship required. Actions taken based on final decisions made – orders to kit company etc. **2nd instalment made by all tour participants.**

January - work off the turkey!!! Fundraising for tour kit continues.

February – pay-off remaining balance (either via self-funding or with the help of your own allocation of RFU GRAND DRAW tickets). RFU raffle tickets are a great way for participants to fundraise and raise awareness of their involvement in grassroots rugby amongst family, friends, work colleagues etc. Forever £1 you raise, the RFU only requires 10p back and the other 90p goes towards your tour balance. Genius!!!!

March – Orders submitted for adult participants tour kit; Grasshoppers tour themes and 'activities' planned.

April – end of rugby season approaches – participants get really excited about tour and some even start to pack... yes based on last year's evidence, some had been packing for weeks!!!!

May – Lights...Camera....Action... **Grasshoppers MINIS on Tour!!!!** 3 and a bit days of blissful rugby, friendship and fun!

June – Get ready for next year's tour!!!

For those of you who are new to the club, TOUR is a mini-break to participate in a weekend festival of rugby normally on the south coast of England involving clubs from all over the UK. Over the past few years we have found that TOUR makes us what we are... a great family club, who encourage all young people and their parents/ carers, to come together and enjoy the game of rugby alongside the skills, confidence, fun and networking associated with it. It really is an opportunity not to be missed. All questions will be answered at next week's tour meetings during training. Once players are settled come up to the clubhouse and find out more. Any urgent questions can be sent to bigmckeeper@gmail.com





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Rugby



Sunday 30 September – Week 2 in Syon Lane club



It was great to see so many excited faces last week... and that was just the parents / carers! The players seemed to really enjoy themselves on the new surface and it promises to be a great season ahead if the standard of play last Sunday is anything to go by. Apologies about having to cancel training this morning as a result of the persistent heavy rain. We felt that training in these conditions would have been detrimental to participants well-being and getting a good soaking is not everyone's best sporting memory as a kid. Please ensure players have cold weather and wet conditions training gear for the coming months as it is likely to be a mixed forecast! Next Sunday remains the same training session times.

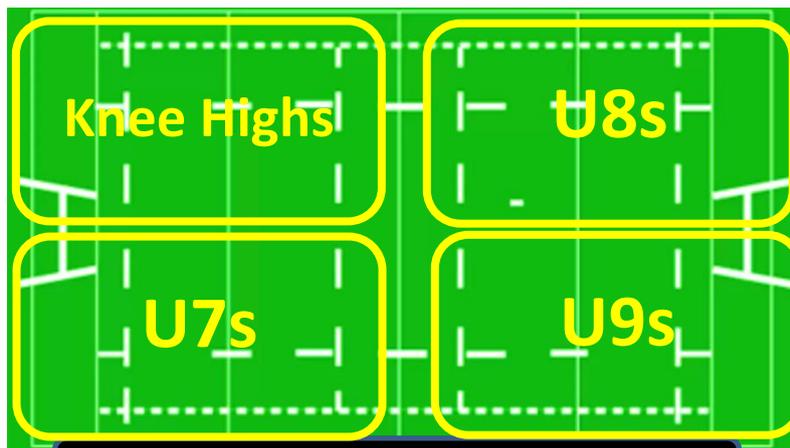
09:00 – 10:15 – Knee Highs (U6); U7; U8 & U9 (AGP)

10:15-11:30 – U10; U11 & U12 (AGP)

Existing and new players who have not yet registered with the club should complete a registration form and pay subscription fees upstairs in the clubhouse. Please remember:

Footwear on the artificial pitch is restricted to rugby studded boots or moulded studs. Bladed boots are not permitted. Trainers are not advised due to lack of grip.

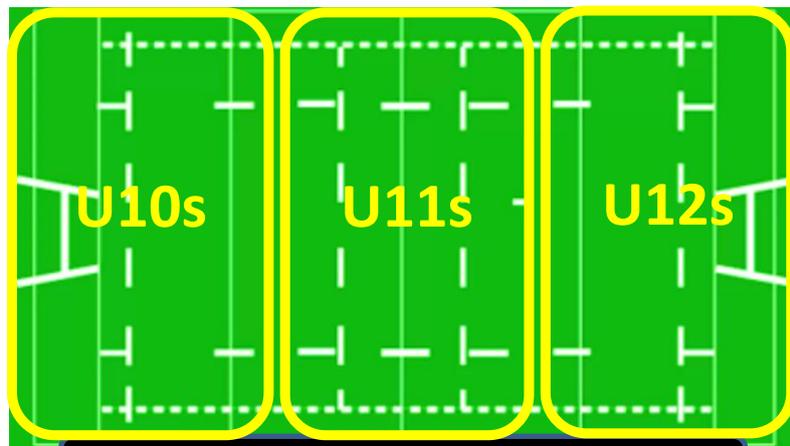
**09:00-
10:15**



Grasshoppers New Clubhouse



**10:15-
11:30**



Grasshoppers New Clubhouse





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Minis Rugby



Tour Fundraising - Let's Get it Going!



In order to get close to our fundraising targets for Minis this year, we already have received some amazing donated prizes. We will be operating a scratch card draw for those interested over the coming months during Minis training sessions. Starting next week we will have a scratch card draw or 4 tickets to Chessington World of Adventure (worth over £200). This scratch card is £5 a box. We also have a pair of tickets to the England vs South Africa match (Saturday 3rd November) at Twickenham (also worth over £200). This scratch card is £10 a box. Best wishes for all involved!



Rugby Holiday Camp – 22-24 October 2018



The Autumn half term rugby camp at Grasshoppers (run in collaboration with Harlequins RFC) still has some places available. The camp will take place on 22, 23 & 24 October at the new Grasshoppers' facility on Syon Lane. Enquiries / bookings can be made at www.rugbycamps.co.uk/harlequins Early-bird places (booked before 1st October) are still available for £95 (for all 3 days). Bookings made after 1st October will cost £105.



Minis fixtures for the coming weeks

	KHs	U7s	U8s	U9s	U10s	U11s	U12s
Sun 30 Sep	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME
Sun 7 Oct	Away Training Session with Chiswick RFC – first adventure of the year!						
Sun 14 Oct	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	Ros. Park	HOME	HOME
Sat 21 Oct	Home Training Session with Hillingdon Abbots – our first guests!						
Sun 28 Oct	Triangular with Ruislip & Staines at Ruislip. A mini-festival!						

As you can see, a pretty busy October! However, we always strive to give our Minis the best opportunities to meet friends and play rugby against other clubs in and beyond Middlesex. This helps build their self-confidence and develop their understanding and appreciation of how rugby is played by other children their age, outside of their home ground. We believe it is a key part of their development as an individual and someone who appreciates and gets involved in sport. For new parents / carers, we will distribute maps and directions a week before the fixture so you can discuss and finalise plans with coaches etc.





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MINIS Rugby



Rules & Responsibilities at the new clubhouse

We kindly remind everyone that as we embark on an adventure at our new club there are some rules and responsibilities we have been asked to pass on.

1. **No dogs permitted on the grounds** – due to the nature of the playing surfaces and limited space around these the executive committee took the decision after much heated debate to have the club as a dog-free zone for the well-being of all players and spectators.
2. **Grass banks** – under no circumstance should players climb on the grass banks either side of the clubhouse. They are very steep and due to some of the turf drying out, the surfaces can sometimes be uneven and slippery.
3. **Supervision** – parents / carers please supervise your children and discourage them from going exploring at the far side of the ground. Last Sunday several Minis players disturbed seeded ground in their unsupervised adventures and this took considerable work to reset early this week.
4. **Footwear** – please use the small stand seats to change footwear before and after training. No boots should be worn beyond the stand seats up into the balcony area.
5. **Clubhouse restaurant** – please encourage children to avoid climbing on furniture or run around inside. This is a health and safety risk to them and those around them.

We think that applying common sense to all these matters will result in everyone enjoying their experiences in and around the new club.



MINIS COMMITTEE 2018/19

Below are the club volunteers who have been voted into committee roles for the 2018/19 season. If you have any general or specific queries please make contact as appropriate. We thank them for their continued work for all our players / parents at Grasshoppers.

Chairperson – Declan McKeever – 07950 953649 – bigmckeeper@gmail.com

Vice Chairperson (Marketing / PR /) – Steve Hunt – 07775 683682 – stevehunt78@yahoo.co.uk

Vice Chairperson (Rugby Opportunities / Social) – Glen Curtin – 07814 000407 – glen_curtin10@yahoo.com

Fixtures Secretary – Antony Enright – 07771 655254 – antonyenright@outlook.com

Child Protection / Tour Manager – Laura Curtin – 07947 480242 – lauradixon@mail.com

Knee Highs Lead Coach – Alix Reeves – 07946 622145 – alix1reeves@gmail.com

U7s Lead Coach – Steve Hunt - 07775 683682 – stevehunt78@yahoo.co.uk

U8s Lead Coach – Paul Vinnell – 07941 006777 – paul_vinnell@hotmail.com

U9s Lead Coach – Antony Enright - 07771 655254 – antonyenright@outlook.com

U10s Lead Coach – Glen Curtin - 07814 000407 – glen_curtin10@yahoo.com

U11s Lead Coach – John Lake – 07818 041726 - jrlake@hotmail.com

U12s Lead Coach – Mehl Jacobs – 07930 391280 – rugby@jacobsandco.biz

If you have any questions about any of the content of this newsletter, any suggestions for how it could be improved or indeed any suggestions of how we could improve generally please do not hesitate to contact Declan at bigmckeeper@gmail.com